

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO. 1/5¹

TERMS OF REFERENCE, WATCH COMMITTEE OF THE USIB (Effective 7 March 1961)

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 4e, NSCID No. 1, and paragraph 61, a and b, of NSC 5906/1 (approved by the President on 3 December 1959), the following terms of reference for the Watch Committee of the USIB are hereby established:

Preamble

The Sino-Soviet bloc, as a potential aggressor, has the capability to initiate, suddenly at any time and in a place and by methods of its own choosing hostile action² in such strength as to threaten gravely the security of the United States. The mission of providing earliest possible warning of hostile action or of impending developments that could eventuate in hostile action will be undertaken by the USIB agencies, within the scope of their responsibilities, as of the highest priority. The proper discharge of this mission depends upon the carrying out of complementary watch and estimating functions. It is recognized that, beginning with evidence of an attack having been launched, there are also complementary responsibilities for reporting and analysis by the intelligence mechanism and operational elements which report directly.

A. Name

Watch Committee of the USIB.

B. Mission

To provide the earliest possible warning to the United States Government of hostile action, or of impending developments that could eventuate in hostile action, by the Sino-Soviet bloc, which endangers the security of the United States.

C. Functions

1. To develop and operate on a current and continuing basis an intelligence plan for obtaining from USIB member departments and agencies, and from other U.S. departments and agencies through appropriate channels, the intelligence necessary to discharge the mission and for recommending collection priorities therefor.

¹This Directive supersedes DCID No. 1/5, effective 14 November 1958, which in turn had superseded DCID No. 1/2 of 11 May 1954.

²Aggressive action by regular or irregular armed forces.

2. To analyze and evaluate information and intelligence, both current and cumulative, on an all-source basis, received or produced by all agencies to determine whether it may relate to the imminence of hostile action, and to develop therefrom the conclusions as to indications of Sino-Soviet bloc intentions:
 - a. to initiate hostile action against
 - (1) the United States, U.S. possessions, or U.S. forces abroad,
 - (2) U.S. allies or their forces,
 - (3) other areas and forces outside the Sino-Soviet bloc.
 - b. to initiate hostile action in reaction to or in exploitation of any other development, actual or potential.
3. To draw conclusions regarding or to draw attention to, as appropriate, current and prospective developments involving the Sino-Soviet bloc which could eventuate in hostile action.
4. When necessary in developing its conclusions, to make provisional estimative judgments but to avoid duplicating USIB estimating functions.
5. To report promptly its conclusions, together with significant indications, to the principals of the USIB and, following their action, to make dissemination to other recipients as appropriate.
6. To make recommendations to the USIB, or member agencies thereof, on any matters appropriate to its mission, including such divergent views as may be recorded.

D. Composition and Organization

The Watch Committee will be composed of a Senior Officer representing each USIB member and a Chairman who will be designated by the Director of Central Intelligence after consultation with the USIB. The Committee will be assisted in its duties and responsibilities by the National Indications Center (NIC), headed by a Director to be provided by CIA and staffed with professional intelligence and administrative personnel to be furnished by the USIB members.

E. Duties and Responsibilities

The Watch Committee shall discharge, or direct the National Indications Center in the discharge of, the below-listed duties and responsibilities:

1. Meet on a regular schedule as determined by the Committee and on special occasions when requested by one or more of its members or their principals.
2. Arrange through the USIB or appropriate members thereof for the exploitation of every domestic and foreign source of information and intelligence pertinent to the Watch Committee mission and for the prompt reporting of such information.
3. Arrange with USIB agencies for the systematic screening and forwarding to the National Indications Center of all pertinent informa-

tion and intelligence, especially that required by NSC 5438. An agency evaluation, where appropriate, will be forwarded as soon as possible.

4. Maintain liaison with USIB agencies to ensure that all pertinent information and intelligence is made available to the National Indications Center.

5. Screen all pertinent information received from USIB agencies for indications relating to the Watch Committee mission and develop evaluations thereof in coordination with concerned USIB agencies.

6. Maintain a 24-hour watch function in order to carry out a continuous study of incoming information, alert members of the Watch Committee and NIC as required and obtain from USIB agencies evaluations of significant indications.

7. Review periodically any USIB-approved General Indicator List and recommend changes to it as appropriate.

8. Maintain files, graphic displays, charts and other devices to support and develop the interpretation of indications information. Study on a continuing basis the application of electronic data processing systems to the work of the NIC with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the USIB.

9. Study improvements in substantive analysis and analytical techniques in the field of responsibility of the Watch Committee, calling on USIB agencies for assistance when appropriate.

10. Perform such additional tasks as shall be required by the USIB in the discharge of the Watch Committee mission.

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Director of Central Intelligence